JIN strategies for the 2005-07 biennium

Key points

Maintaining stand-alone systems, which are not integrated, and environments in which operational inefficiencies impede access to information is costly for the state. The potential for liability is ever-present; missed opportunities perpetuate ineffective systems.

The information produced by aggregated data from multiple sources should be available in real-time; JIN constituents should not have to run queries from multiple systems.

These fundamental changes will ensure rapid, seamless access to state and local data sources, build operating efficiency and, ultimately, improve public safety.

There are far more advantages to modifying the existing state infrastructure in order to facilitate the security and transactional needs of the justice community.

The Program Office should remain mainly virtual – a set of services developed through grants or contributions, along with an inventory of system and project documentation that is reusable and provides guidance for similar or related projects.

The Justice Information Network has developed four tactical strategies that will advance justice integration throughout Washington state.

Strategy 1: Design the JIN

The architecture of the physical and logical flows of information within the justice community is the primary building block in the state's integration plan. Its design will establish a blueprint for connecting all JIN constituents.

This blueprint will emerge as these five logical steps are followed:

1. document the current network architecture;
2. evaluate the proof-of-concept projects;
3. gather customer requirements (security, performance, cost) from JIN constituents;
4. design a viable and secure model for information sharing; and
5. test the design-through-implementation model at a number of local connection points.

This strategy supports all six JIN objectives and builds on the *2002 Implementation Recommendations*[5] prepared for the JIC, the predecessor to the Board.

The Program Office, which has been working with the JIN TAG to define the scope and character of this project, issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for this work in August 2004. The RFP is funded by $450,000 of federal Byrne grant funds allocated to the Program Office for FY 2004 by OFM, pursuant to the Board's recommendation. Appendix C is a summary of the work requested by the RFP.

Strategy 2. Develop technology and design principles

The Board is guided by a preliminary set of technology principles that were identified by the JIN TAG in conjunction with the development and evaluation of JIN's two proof-of-concept projects.

[5] MTG *Implementation Recommendations*, July 2002, pp. 6-7, Appendix A, pp.20-24

These technology principles provide an operating framework for the Board, which must square the need for integration and the importance of individual projects with the difficulties and pitfalls of dictating behavior in a diffuse and diverse environment. Projects seeking state or federal grant funding should align with these principles and all JIN constituents or funding sources should take them into consideration where applicable. During the 2005-07 biennium, the Program Office will seek to develop these principles into a comprehensive collection of recommended standards, templates and reusable components. The Program Office will keep the tools, expertise and knowledge up-to-date and accessible to the community. This strategy is consistent with Objective 1.

Technology principles

Standards – JIN constituents should conform to national, state and open industry standards wherever possible.

Integration – New applications should focus on integration with the JIN infrastructure and data sharing as part of the design process.

Shared infrastructure – The JIN community will use shared infrastructure appropriately and leverage existing infrastructure to the fullest extent possible.

Security and privacy – Disclosure of data is the responsibility of the owner of the data according to applicable laws and regulations. Applications, data and security are the responsibility of their respective owners.

Applications and data exchanges – Applications that need to exchange data via the JIN should be designed or enhanced to be compatible with the JIN infrastructure.

Reusable components – Applications should use common, reusable components, data and designs wherever possible.

There are four corresponding design standards that support the technology principles:

1. exchanges will be event-driven and timely;
2. exchanges will be designed to optimize efficiency for publishers and subscribers;
3. the JIN is a service provider; and
4. exchanges will be secure and will comply with all state and federal requirements.

Strategy 3. Develop services in response to user demand

It is imperative that, as the justice community integrates shared information into its business processes, discrete IT systems are empowered to communicate with each other. These interfaces are critical if JIN constituents are to reduce the amount of redundant data entry and improve the efficiency and integrity of data that travels from law enforcement to prosecutors to the courts and corrections. Moreover, the information produced by aggregated data from multiple sources should be available in real-time and meet the needs of its consumers; JIN constituents should not have to run queries from multiple systems.

As the justice community automates its paper-based exchanges and data is able to traverse a secure and high-functioning network, the results will surface quickly – reduced delays and the delivery of reliable, accurate data. These fundamental changes will ensure rapid, seamless access to state and local data sources, build operating efficiency and, ultimately, improve public safety.

During the last three years, the AOC developed the Summary Offender Profile (SOP) application, a web-based query application that aggregates information from a variety of state systems. This application was assigned to the Program Office in January 2004. In June, the SOP was made available to a pilot group within the JIN community. Once the update of user documentation is finalized and functional testing is complete, the Board will conduct a second pilot deployment. Plans to make the application available statewide are taking shape at this time. This supports Objectives 3, 4 and 5.

Strategy 4. Maintain security and privacy rights

A central premise of the JIN is that constituents should maintain control of their data and establish usage and dissemination policies that ensure security and protect privacy rights.

In order to protect these rights, the Board has developed a set of security policies based on SEARCH, Foundation Principles of Integration, 2004, (http://www.search.org/publications/pdffiles/Integration.pdf):

- security and privacy are priorities as the state develops capabilities and policies for integrated justice;
- integrated justice systems are comprised of, or derived from, the operational systems of the participating agencies;
- participants must meet agreed upon requirements for data, communication and security standards; and
- the justice community must respect privacy interests, prevent unauthorized disclosures of information and allow appropriate public access to relevant information.

> Building integration and information-sharing capabilities in justice often contemplates fundamental changes in business practices across agencies and jurisdictions, and between branches of government.
>
> *Washington Statewide Homeland Security Strategy, 2004*

The development of a security model for information sharing in the justice community is a key component of the current Byrne grant initiative (see Appendix D). This supports Objective 6.

Alternative strategies

The JIN TAG has examined a number of different architectural solutions for justice integration. As they reviewed the responses to the 2003 RFI, TAG members eliminated data warehousing and proprietary applications as alternative strategies and opted for open, standards-based IT solutions. In doing so, the TAG set the JIN on a course of action that minimizes risk and allows the JIN greater flexibility to adapt as technologies and circumstances change.

Consistent with the technology and design principles detailed above, the group has determined that construction of a new network for sharing justice information is not a cost-effective solution; there are far more advantages to modifying the existing state infrastructure in order to facilitate the security and transactional needs of the justice community.

As a central point for knowledge, technical support and strategic direction, the Program Office is developing greater definition among JIN constituents and throughout the Washington IT enterprise. The JIN TAG agrees that the Program Office should remain mainly virtual – a set of services developed through grants or contributions, along with an inventory of system and project documentation that is reusable and provides guidance for similar or related projects.

Risk factors

There are a variety of risks associated with not implementing this Plan. Maintaining stand-alone systems, which are not integrated and environments in which operational inefficiencies impede access to information, is costly for the state. The potential for liability is ever-present; missed opportunities perpetuate ineffective systems.

At the same time, the creation of a Program Office to serve entrenched JIN constituents comes with its own risks. The Program Office must ensure that JIN services respond effectively to user needs and that priorities are set appropriately by the state. JIN constituents can place great confidence in the Board whose members represent a broad cross-section of the justice community. Established and available to resolve policy issues, the Board can and will provide critical leadership as Washington moves forward with justice integration.